



The GAB'er

The Newsletter of the Greater Albany Apple Byters

Volume 29, Number 10 - June 2013

What's Coming at WWDC?



Jim Dalrymple from The Loop writes that he doesn't expect a new iPhone or iPad model to be announced at WWDC 2013, largely because the devices are flagship products and would have their own, separate media events. Instead, he believes that the Mac wouldn't warrant its own event -- but an announcement of Mac updates would fit well at WWDC.

Dalrymple expects Apple to show off new versions of both the Mac and iOS operating systems, which Tim Cook had confirmed. A number of previous reports have claimed that much of the iOS user interface would receive a Jony Ive-led revamping, with a "flatter" design and fewer skeuomorphic elements.

Last month, KGI Securities analyst Ming-Chi Kuo said Apple's notebook line would receive updates at WWDC, with non-Retina models shipping soon after WWDC and Retina machines shipping later due to production bottlenecks on the displays.

A number of reports have suggested that Apple will introduce new iPhone and iPad models this fall, including a Retina-display equipped iPad mini, as well as a new iPhone model perhaps equipped with a fingerprint sensor.

Coordinator's Corner



by John Buckley

We are celebrating our 29th Anniversary as a Mac User Group. Members should set aside June 12th for our 29th Anniversary Dinner at the Plum Blossom for this year's dinner. Sorry, the guy pictured (Tim Cook, Apple CEO) won't be there, but he will be providing a lot of exciting Apple information in San Francisco at the WWDC.



Could this be the face of GAAB's next Program Coordinator?

The WWDC will provide plenty for discussion about the direction Apple is taking and what is new for the Mac. We will also be discussing the future of GAAB at this dinner. Please read the special article on GAAB's future before attending the meeting.

The Greater Albany AppleByters is where you can find out all things Apple, so be at the June meeting and bring your questions and an appetite.

The meeting is at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 12, 2013 at the Plum Blossom (See Map on page 5). See you then. We need to have members signed up for dinner. So if you want to attend, go to [the website and complete the survey](#). I will not make reservations until early on June 12th.

Next GAAB Meeting
June 12, 2013
The Future of GAAB
6:00 p.m.
Plum Blossom Restaurant
Troy, NY

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The Greater Albany Apple Byters is an Apple Computer User Group. Meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month (except July and August) in Room 212 of Troy High School, located on Burdett Avenue, Troy, NY.

Annual membership fee is \$10.00. Membership privileges include this newsletter, access to a large public domain software and video/audio tape library, local vendor discounts, special interest groups, and other special offers.

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Apple Ambassador

by John Buckley

What Is an Apple Ambassador and Apple Tech Training

With a change in GAAB leadership, many may wonder what the Apple Ambassador does. Below is the Apple Ambassador Guide for those who might be interested. Also, information about Apple Tech Training is available below.

We will be discussing the Apple WWDC announcements at our June meeting. The WWDC will start on June 10th and will be in session during our meeting.

Apple User Group Ambassador Guide Provided by the Apple User Group Advisory Board

What is an Apple User Group Ambassador?

Apple User Group Ambassador is the role assigned to one individual from each recognized Apple User Group in the Apple User Group Locator (database). Leaders from each user group choose a member from their group who will serve in this role. The Ambassador for the group serves as the link and primary contact to the Apple User Group program.

What benefits does your user group receive from having an Apple User Group Ambassador?

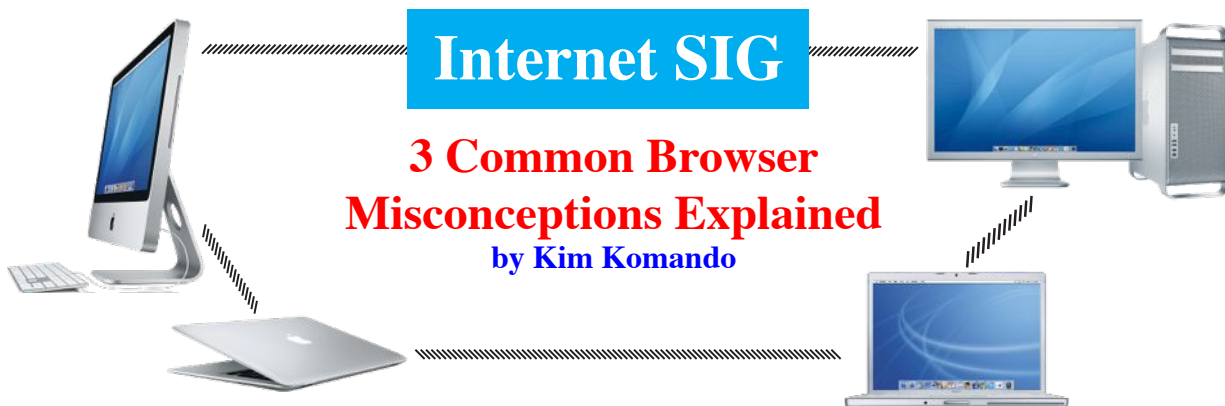
Apple Sales Web (ASW) – ASW provides Ambassadors with access to the latest Apple product information, PDF print-outs, and Keynote presentation resources that you can integrate into your meetings.

Apple Sales Training Online (ASTO) – ASTO allows Ambassadors to stay up to date on Apple products and information by taking courses and earning points. ASTO courses can help you to prepare presentations for your meetings.

Apple User Group Bulletin (AUGB) – A monthly newsletter for user group leaders with a summary of the latest news, vendor discount offers and announcements for the Apple User Group community.

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The World Wide Web is so ingrained in our digital lives that it's easy to forget how awe-inspiring it really is. Don't believe me?

We know that there were 634 million active websites at the end of 2012 - 51 million more than 2011.

Each site might have multiple pages, so experts guess that the Web might have as many as 1 trillion Web pages!

That's probably why the world's 2.4 billion Internet users needed to run 1.2 trillion Google searches last year!

Of course, none of this surfing and searching would be possible without something else that often gets taken for granted: the humble Web browser. Many people have misconceptions about browsers. Let's clear them up.

1. A browser is a search provider - When asked what a browser is, it's common for people to start rattling off names like Google, Bing and Yahoo. In the non-digital world, browsing and searching are similar activities. When you're shopping in a store, you "browse" the aisles "searching" for items.

In the digital sense, however, they are two very different things. A search provider is a company, like Google or Yahoo, with a website. When you search, your activity is done on one site.

A browser, on the other hand, is the program you use to access the entire Internet. You can access millions of sites, not just search providers.

Think of your browser like a TV and websites like channels. If someone asks you what kind of TV you have, you would say Sony or Samsung, not Discovery or Disney.

Confusion alert: Most browsers do have a built-in search feature. However, this is just a faster way of visiting a search provider's site and performing a search.

This might seem like I'm splitting hairs, but for us tech people it really is a big deal. You don't know how many people I've tried to help who can't tell me what browser they use. In some cases, it can make all the difference to figuring out the problem.

So, what browser names should you know? There are more than a dozen browsers around, but only a few major ones. These are: Internet Explorer, Safari, [Chrome](#), [Firefox](#) and [Opera](#).

That leads us to the second misconception.

2. Web browsers are all the same - A browser is transparent technology. For the most part, you don't really think about your browser; you just use it. That's how more technology should be!

Of course, at some point you do need to think about your browser. Just like older TVs can't display the newest movies and shows correctly, older browsers have trouble with newer Web standards, like HTML5. That means you aren't seeing newer websites the way you should. In some cases, they won't even show up!

Then there's the security issue. Every day, hackers create thousands of new threats that target your computer, and your browser is a doorway that could let any of them in.

If a hacker can get you to click on the wrong thing or visit the wrong page while you're browsing, your personal information is theirs. That's not a good thought.

Obviously, you want security software installed as defense. [You can find plenty of great, free security software here.](#)

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Education SIG

A Different Kind of “Flipped” Learning: Students Teaching Students

by Darren ‘Mike’ McGuire, Best Practice News, eClassroom News

American philosopher, psychologist, and educational crusader John Dewey often wrote about education reform, and although he died in 1952, several recurrent themes in his writings have special significance for modern teachers.

Dewey continually argued that education and learning were social and interactive processes. He also believed that students thrive in an environment where they are allowed to experience and interact with the curriculum and that all students should have the opportunity to take part in their own learning.

My beliefs as an educator mirror those of Mr. Dewey’s: Learning should be centered on the student, not the teacher. And isn’t that really what flipped learning is all about? It’s about compelling teachers like me to reflect on our practice and rethink how we reach our students. It’s about encouraging students to set the pace so that truly individualized instruction takes place. It’s about stirring teachers and students alike to change the way they’ve always done things.

As a teacher at Granby Elementary School in Columbus, Ohio, I orchestrated a more interactive style of instruction, including my own version of reversed teaching methodology—or “flipped instruction”—in which students taught students. This new and improved approach, in which I served as a facilitator rather than a sage on the stage, raised academic outcomes, produced a greater sense of collaboration between classmates, and heightened the level of student engagement.

In 2009, I was given a MimioTeach Interactive Classroom Solution package of interactive teaching technologies. I have to admit, I had no idea how my classroom (or me, for that matter) would be transformed. Previously, I had four older computer models in the classroom, and I was not very tech savvy. But that was then.

Today, my classroom is a technology port that includes my laptop computer and two MimioTeach bars with MimioStudio classroom software. One bar is installed on a large dry erase board at the front of the classroom,

turning it into an interactive whiteboard. The second bar is connected to a whiteboard that rotates on a desktop base situated at the back of the room. I also have the MimioView document camera, MimioPad wireless tablet, MimioVote assessment “clickers,” and MimioCapture ink recorder.

Technology fascinates my students, but I have to make sure that the lessons I create are also genuinely interesting, so they’ll want to become engaged whether I’m teaching language arts, math, or science. Using the interactive whiteboard, for example, forces me to ask myself: What would be the best way to teach this lesson? How can I get the students involved? I’m constantly thinking through these teaching aspects ahead of time.

Between 25 and 30 different students come through my classroom every hour, and getting them involved at the very start of the lesson is vital. So to start, I typically display three questions on the interactive whiteboard at the front of the classroom as the students are walking in and getting settled. I also post their learning targets or questions that will be covered for the day. Both the learning targets and questions get students thinking about what they will learn that day.

During instruction time, my students sit together in groups of six at the whiteboards. Each group also shares a 32-inch computer monitor so they can work more effectively. I use the interactive whiteboard at the front of the class to demonstrate concepts in ways that will show relevance or add visual interest.

For example, when teaching line plotting in math class, I had students come up and create a pictogram using football helmet images from the software’s gallery as the dots. The graphics were far and away more interesting than actual dots on a line, and it made learning math more fun. The interactive whiteboard fits well with this curriculum, and it opens the students’ minds to recognizing different ways to solve the same problems.

I also have found that it’s essential to include as many activities as I can in which the students come up to the



board or operate it with the tablet and conduct the lessons themselves. To tell the truth, my students were more than ready for that change; five minutes after I showed them the technology tools for the first time, they grabbed the pad and stylus and were off and running in the role of instructor. “Flipping” the role and the responsibility of learning over to them has proved to be very successful. This is where technology has become an integral part of teaching and learning for all of us.

My own role is now more of a facilitator while my students collaborate, coach, and instruct each other. I have students tackle problems individually or in small groups. Both methods lead to cooperative and collaborative learning, because after the students have worked through a problem or series of questions, the interactive whiteboards become the focal point for whole-class discussion, review, or re-teaching—providing the perfect venue for the individuals or small groups to present strategies and solutions to help their struggling classmates.

I’ve found that my students are learning how to be better problem solvers and risk takers. When I’m teaching language arts activities, I can show one student’s work to the entire classroom via the document camera and have them suggest ways in which that student could improve. They aren’t afraid to toss out ideas they might not previously have shared.

For one class, I even had a student create and teach a grammar lesson on “Me versus I.” The others demonstrated their understanding of the concepts by using the clickers to respond to questions. At other times during the lesson,

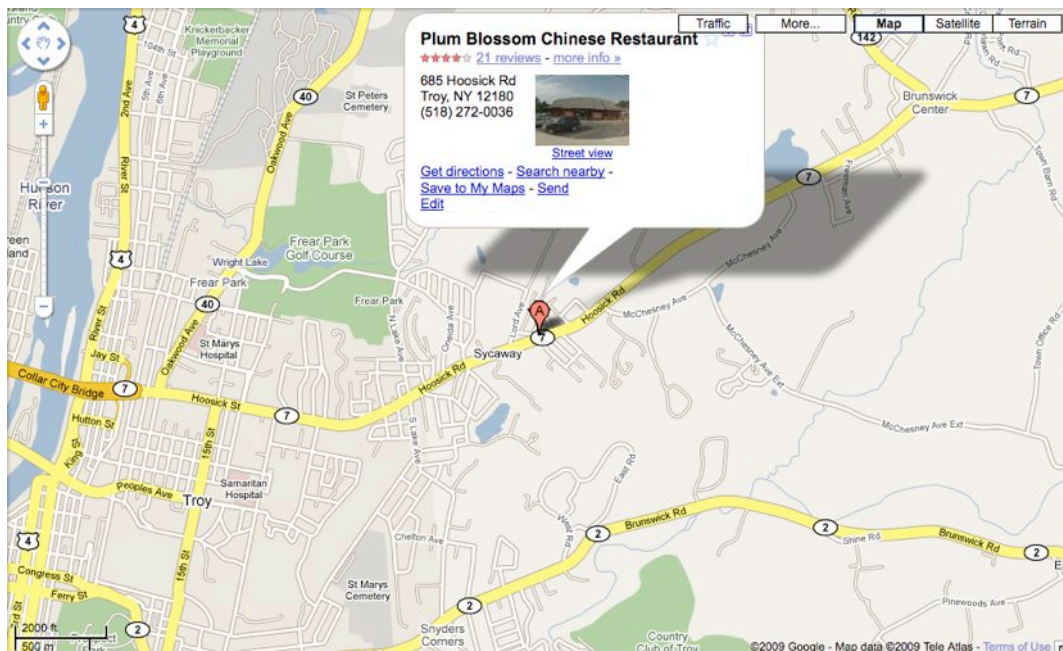
students came to the board to place the correct answer in sentences highlighted on the interactive whiteboard.

It takes courage to get up in front of your classmates and teach them, but it also demonstrates how easy the technologies are to use. It’s that ease of use that hooked me, but it’s students’ deeper comprehension of subject matter that has me most excited.

My students used to memorize materials and promptly forget the information after a test. But with our new building-block approach of teaching, sharing, collaborating, and encouraging everyone to stretch themselves, they’re now using previous learning to solve the next set of problems presented. This shows how important it is to put students at the center of their learning experience.

This new teaching style is making an impact on my students’ achievement scores. Our Ohio Achievement Test scores rose steadily year over year, from 63 percent proficient to 79 percent in four years. In that last year, 2012, the state average was 66 percent. The difference in my mind was the effective and consistent use of the interactive teaching technologies.

I think John Dewey would approve of this new style of interactive and flipped teaching that I’ve incorporated and the difference it’s made in teaching, learning, and achievement gains. Using technology that allows for cooperation, collaboration, and feedback has played an important role in driving my students’ inquiry, discovery, and learning.



Apple Ambassador

Continued from page 2.

Apple User Group Discussion List (AUGD) – An Apple email discussion list where you can ask questions and interact with other user group leaders from around the world.

Resources for Apple User Group Presentations and Newsletters – This service offers links to meeting presentations and newsletters articles that Apple user group members from around the world have provided for other groups to use.

User Group Vendor Discount Offers – Short-term discounts on new and proven products offered exclusively to user group leaders and members.

For more information on the benefits listed above, click on the topic item and you will be linked to the appropriate website.

What are your responsibilities as an Apple User Group Ambassador?

Daily:

- Apple User Group Discussion List – Read, participate, share and stay informed by the daily discussion with other Apple User Group leaders.
- Check the Apple User Group Resources website – or subscribe to the RSS feed.

Weekly:

- Check Apple Sales Web for new product information and resources for your meeting. - Take at least one Apple Sales Training Online Course to stay up to date with the latest Apple products.

Monthly:

- Apple User Group Bulletin – Read the monthly Bulletin, and share and redistribute the appropriate information to your user group's leaders and members. Make sure that the Vendor Offers are passed along to your members.

Yearly:

- Make sure your user group information is correct in the Apple User Group Locator. Update newly elected group leaders, meeting information, website info, emails, etc.

This will ensure that individuals seeking out groups in your area will receive accurate information.

Pass on all information to newly elected Ambassadors.
Apple Updates Service Tech Training and Certification Program
by Jordan Golson

Apple has [updated its Apple Certified Macintosh Technician \(ACMT\) Certification](#), making it easier for individuals to get their initial certifications and for existing techs to keep theirs without yearly recertification exams.

The company is making its AppleCare technician certifications permanent as of June 23rd, making it so technicians will not need to go through a yearly recertification process. Additionally, exams of all kinds will be performed online rather than in a testing center.

However, individual product qualifications -- certifications to repair more complicated products like the iMac -- will still need to be performed.

Changes include the following:

No more ACMT recertifications: All service technicians with existing ACMT certifications as of June 23 will be granted a new ACMT certification that eliminates yearly recertification exams. This new certification will allow the same ordering of service parts as the preceding ACMT certification and will not expire.

New exam resources: The following Apple service exams will be available solely from a new online resource:

- 9L0-010 - Apple Macintosh Service Certification Exam
- 9L0-064 - OS X v10.8 Mountain Lion Troubleshooting Exam
- 9L0-E04 - iOS Qualification Exam



"On the Internet, nobody knows you're a dog."



GAAB's Future

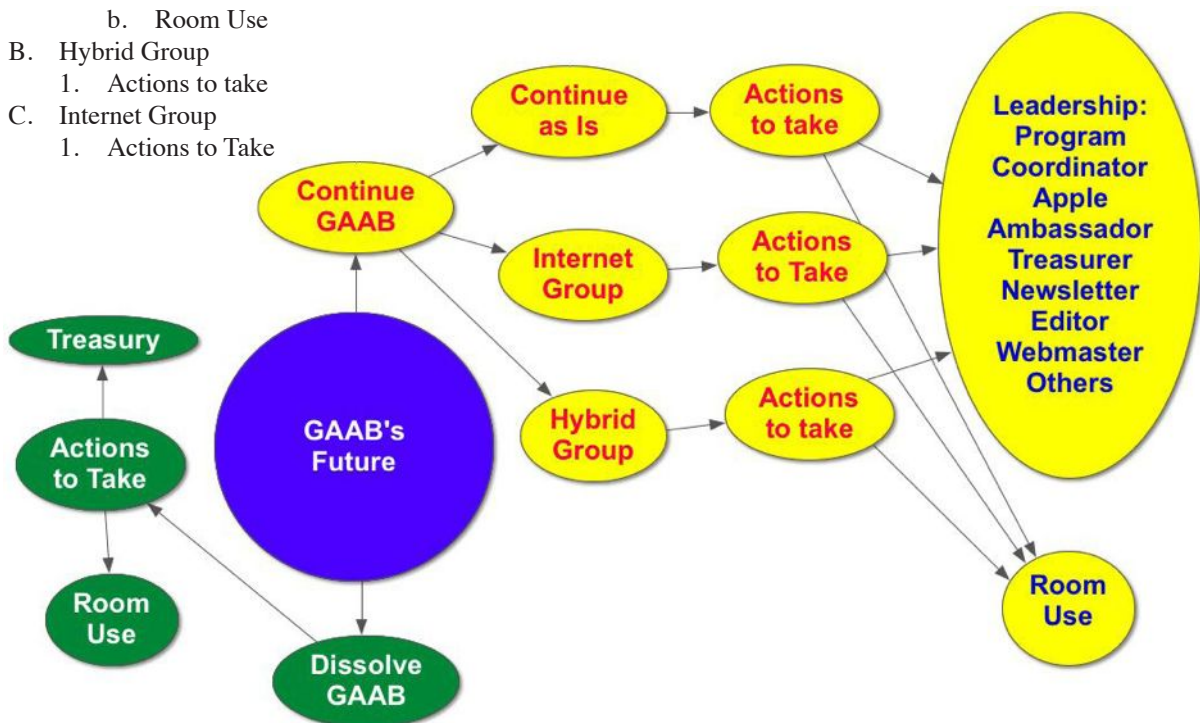
The above diagram is what I presented at the may GAAB meeting. Those present decided it would be better if we made any final decisions at the June Dinner Meeting where we would hopefully have a larger turnout. We have basically two options: dissolve GAAB or continue. If we continue, we can move forward as is, become a group that exists mainly on the internet, or create a hybrid group doing both.

If we are to continue as a group, we will have to create new leadership. I am currently the Program Coordinator, the Apple Ambassador, the Webmaster, and I compose the Education Special Interest Group article using information I find on the web. As I posted two months ago, I will not be doing that after this month's meeting. Roger Mazula puts together the GAAB'er each month and Cecilia MacDonald is the Treasurer and Membership Director. They have not mentioned whether they wish to continue in these roles or not.

Our June meeting and dinner we be a very important meeting and all should be there.

We will use the following outline for our discussion of GAAB's Future.

- I. Dissolve GAAB
 - A. Actions to Take
 1. Treasury
 2. Room Use
- II. Continue GAAB
 - A. Continue as Is
 1. Actions to take
 - a. Leadership:
 - Program Coordinator Apple Ambassador
 - Treasurer
 - Newsletter Editor
 - Webmaster
 - Others
 - b. Room Use
 - B. Hybrid Group
 1. Actions to take
 - C. Internet Group
 1. Actions to Take



Internet SIG

Continued from page 3.

However, an up-to-date browser is also a good defense. Newer browsers have security features that older browsers don't, like sandboxing and integration with Windows' latest security systems. Plus, they've fixed the security flaws found in older browsers that hackers like to exploit.

So, for those running Internet Explorer 6, 7 or 8, Firefox 3, or older versions of Chrome, it's time to upgrade. If you don't know what version of your browser you're using, it's usually under

Help>>About. [You can also visit this website.](#)

Once you upgrade, you'll be in good shape. Newer browsers automatically install updates to stay fast and secure.

So, newer browsers are better than older browsers, but are browser brands different? For example, Windows and OS X come with Internet Explorer and Safari, respectively, installed by default. Is there any reason to replace Internet Explorer with Firefox, Chrome or Opera?

If you're running Windows XP, the answer is a resounding YES! XP can't run any IE version newer than 8, and IE8 is terrible for browsing speed and security.

If you're still using IE8, I strongly recommend you switch to another browser. The latest, safest, fastest versions of Chrome, Firefox and Opera will work in XP.

For those running Windows Vista, 7, 8 or Mac OS X, the difference between browsers isn't so great. If you have the latest version of your browser, they're all similar in performance and security. However, they do have different focuses.

The best part is that they're all free, so you can download and test them out. In fact, you might end up using multiple browsers to deal with multiple tasks.

Firefox is great for people who love to have lots of tabs open at once and like to customize their experience with add-ons. Chrome is geared toward speed and staying out of the way. Opera is a solid all-around browser for speed and features, plus it works the same on every gadget. Internet Explorer 10 is fine for people who don't want to mess around with a third-party browser.

And that brings us to the final misconception.

3. You're stuck with your default mobile browser - On the whole, the default mobile browsers on smartphones and tablets are less than stellar. iOS users get a mobile version of Safari. Android uses a generic Android browser. Windows Phone 8 smartphones and Windows RT tablets have a mobile version of Internet Explorer 10.

As far as speed and features go, these aren't on par with desktop browsers. Fortunately, there are plenty of third-party alternatives that improve speed, security and features.

For example, there's a mobile version of Opera called [Opera Mini](#) that is very popular. Google and Mozilla make mobile versions of [Chrome](#) and [Firefox](#) respectively. If you use the desktop version of the browser, you can even sync your bookmarks.

Then there are browsers that aren't from one of the major companies. [Dolphin](#) is a popular Android alternative. There are even browsers like [BSecure](#) that offer content filtering for kids.

Again, most of these browsers are free, so you can try them out and see which one you like best.

- See more at: <http://www.komando.com/toolbox.aspx?mode=print&id=14353#sthash.4JDCZaTB.dpuf>

Tax Men - Apple

Senators laud Apple CEO Tim Cook for his amazing products and outside-the-box interpretation of the American corporate tax code.

<http://www.thedailyshow.com/watch/wed-may-22-2013/tax-men---apple>



How to Keep Your Mac Running in Tip-Top Shape

by Topher Kessler, CNET

When you use your new Mac for the first time, the fresh OS installation and new configuration will have the responsiveness and speed that's intended by Apple. For the most part, this should continue throughout the life of the system. However, as with any system, there are times when you may experience slowdowns.

These can happen either from running low on resources like RAM or hard drive space, from software incompatibilities, or even from errors with your system.

While you can tackle these problems if they arise, there are several things you can do to keep your system running in tip-top shape and reduce the probability of them happening in the first place.

Minimize your experience

Often people install a number of utilities and tools that sound useful but which they rarely or never use. At times these tools include background tasks like scanners, monitors, syncing routines, or other functions that simply increase the potential for problems, so consider removing them or disabling their services if you do not use them.



Having numerous menu extras and other background tasks running can lead to odd slowdowns or hangs if one or more of them are experiencing problems.

This applies to Apple's built-in services as well, which include features like file and printer sharing that can be set up in the system preferences. If you rarely use these, then disabling them will not only help security, but it will reduce the potential for odd slowdown or other problems, should they encounter issues.

Overall, just be mindful of what you have installed on your system, especially with regard to drivers, monitors, scanners, and other programs that run in the background, and if you do not need it, then turn it off or uninstall it.

Monitor hard drive and RAM usage

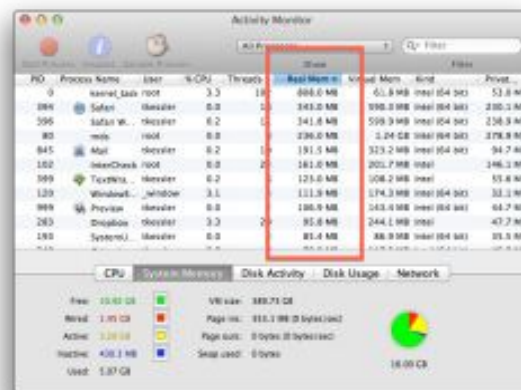
Beyond limiting the use of background services and third-party utilities, make it a habit to monitor the free space on your hard drive. One easy way to do this is to enable the Finder's Status bar in the View menu, which will show up at the bottom of every Finder window and displays the space available on

the current hard drive. If the space ever becomes too low, the system will not be able to manage virtual memory which can lead to drastic system slowdowns. As a rule of thumb, be sure to keep available space above about 5 to 10 percent of the drive's overall capacity.



The Finder status bar (hidden by default) will show you the space available on the current hard drive.

A couple of the leading culprits for hogging hard drive space are the Trash and Downloads folders in OS X. Often people place items in the Trash thinking this will remove it from the system, but the files remain on your disk until the Trash is emptied. Similarly, when you download an installation disk image or other files from the Internet, they will go to your Downloads folder by default. If you do not remove these, the hard drive may be clogged with many gigabytes of wasted space.



Sorting processes by memory usage and checking the colored pie chart will help you determine how much RAM your applications use.

In addition to the hard drive space, be sure you have adequate RAM for your uses, especially as you upgrade your operating system and software versions over time. RAM is the [“desk space” that programs use to work](#). In general, newer versions of software require more RAM and increase the possibility



of your system running low on resources and becoming sluggish. Therefore, be sure to open the Activity Monitor utility periodically to check how much free RAM you have in the “System Memory” chart.

If the free memory is always relatively low (i.e., less than a quarter of the chart), consider adding more RAM to your system. If your system’s RAM cannot be upgraded, think about quitting applications you are not using to free up RAM for other tasks.

One tip to help with this is to keep the Dock visible instead of hiding it, as the lights under each Dock item will help you determine which applications are open. Hiding the Dock somewhat masks this, allowing you to keep many programs open without realizing it.

Stick to one of each kind of background service

Many software companies offer their own approaches to input management, firewalls, and malware scanning services. These can be beneficial, but may also interfere with others that do the same thing. For instance, if you have two antivirus software packages that each have their separate methods for quarantining files, malware that is detected may continuously be flagged by one or the other as they pass the suspected files back and forth between their quarantine locations.

Additionally, if you install a third-party firewall solution that you would prefer to use, you might want to disable the system’s built-in firewall.

Sometimes similar programs like backup routines and other syncing services (Dropbox, Google Drive, etc.) can coexist just fine, but redundancy in other cases, especially with regard to security software and system monitors, may lead to odd or unwanted behaviors.

Use Apple-supplied drivers, if possible

Whenever possible, try using Apple’s supplied drivers for third-party hardware and peripheral devices. Plug the device into your [Mac](#) and see if it can be configured to work without installing any additional software. If so, then considering leaving it as-is, unless some key feature is missing.

If you do need to install additional drivers, then be sure to use the latest versions. Often by the time you purchase the device, updates to its included drivers are available that address bugs and add new features. Therefore, be sure to either immediately update software installed from a CD or simply get the latest version online.

Remember to keep these drivers updated by checking the developer’s Web site for new versions, or using built-in updater utilities.

Hold off on software updates, but eventually do update

Apple and third-party developers regularly update their software, and while these usually improve the system’s security and stability, there are times when problems arise from updates. Therefore, if one is available, consider waiting a week or two to see if others experience problems from it.

Of course, problems are sometimes specific to a given configuration and may not always be avoidable, but ones that are more widespread may be identified on Mac-centric news and troubleshooting sites and forums. However, do be skeptical of problems described by one or two people on support sites, since these are places to discuss problems and may therefore give a skewed perspective of the nature of a given problem.

Regardless of your approach, do eventually install updates if there is no sign of a widespread problem, but also make sure to fully back up your system before doing so.

Regular maintenance?

You do not need to regularly run maintenance on your Mac. Often people outline various “maintenance” tasks for OS X, such as my [General Maintenance Recommendation](#) routines for OS X. These and similar instructions might look like something to do regularly to keep your system running well, but they will offer little (if any) benefit to the system. OS X includes a number of automatic cleaning routines that run on their own schedule and manage the tasks that require regular maintenance, but beyond this not much needs to be cleaned or otherwise altered on a regular basis.

In general, these options are only useful for when you are experiencing a problem such as a slowdown that does not seem to have a specific or obvious cause.



Tools like OnyX offer cleaning options, but these are largely only recommended if you are experiencing problems.

The one exception to this rule is checking the hard drive for errors, which is recommended to be done regularly, especially if the system experiences a crash, hang, power failure, or other



interruption. If a hard drive is failing, it may progressively show errors that can slow down a Mac, so checking it once every few weeks may help you identify problems before they lead to data loss.

To check your hard drive's health, open Disk Utility, select your boot volume, then click the Verify Drive button in the First Aid tab. This may pause the system for a minute or two, but will check the drive's formatting and make sure everything is in order. You can also use Disk Utility and tools like [SMARTreporter](#) to regularly check the status of the drive's built-in diagnostics.

Malware and security on the Mac

The last consideration for keeping your system in shape is awareness of malware and security threats. This topic is always controversial on the Mac platform because, while rare enough that the chances of malware attacks are minimal, such threats have increasingly affected Mac users. Therefore, the long-standing theory that security software is pointless for the Mac platform has a few holes in it.



Lightweight anti-malware tools like Sophos can be easily configured to only run on-demand, and have negligible impact (if any) on your system's performance.

The ability to manage malware comes largely from your computing practices and what you choose to view and participate in online. However, if you do not know what to look for or are unsure of how to avoid it, you might find yourself a bit confused as to what to do. Even though it may sound logical to keep your system updated and steer clear of predatory deals, spam, popups, and underground sites, in some cases malware hijacks legitimate Web sites, the [infamous MacDefender malware outbreak](#) being just one example.

If you are concerned about malware, first read [Thomas Reed's Mac Malware Guide](#), which is one of the more thorough overviews of the Mac malware scene and what security options are available.

Secondly, regardless of the techniques for managing and avoiding threats, if you are still feeling vulnerable, install a free and lightweight antimalware utility like [Sophos Home Edition](#), the open-source [ClamXav suite](#), or even [Symantec's iAntivirus](#) from the Mac App Store. (However, keep in mind this last option does not have an auto-update routine and relies on updates through the App Store, so its threat definitions may be significantly out of date.) Other antimalware tools may be similarly useful, but often require purchase of a license or subscription to keep current.

Regardless of what tool you choose, be sure to minimize its impact on your system by disabling any background services it runs, such as behavioral analysis, on-access scanning routines, and secure keyboard entry options, unless you absolutely need them. While it is arguably safer to keep these features enabled, they are also the most intrusive and can sometimes lead to bizarre behaviors, kernel panics, and slowdowns. However, most of the time having these tools set to run on a schedule or only on-demand will not show any problems, so in this way you will only benefit from using them as a helper for identifying potential threats.

With such a tool installed, a good approach to take is to scan anything you are uncertain about. If you see items in your downloads folder and are curious about what they are or where they came from, the first thing to do is perform a scan on them with updated malware definitions. Following this, you can check them out further by viewing their contents.

Overall, if you keep your Mac streamlined and updated, and avoid arbitrarily installing any program you come across in order to try it out, then your system should stay snappy for years to come.



"Yes, tech support? My laptop kept freezing up, so I stabbed it with a knife. What do I do now?"

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